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REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 19 and 22 have been amended. Claims 11, 12 and 17 have been cancelled. Paragraphs [0014] and [0016] - [0018] of the specification have been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 16 is found in Figs. 1 and 2 and in paragraph [0018] which states that outlets 116, 118 to which the F-shaped flow element 120 is connected are disposed "at the periphery of the housing 102." Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1 - 10, 13 - 16 and 18 - 28 are now pending in this application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable.

Claims 1 - 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,892,518 to Cupp et al. ("Cupp").

Claim 1 recites a port comprising a substantially "F-shaped flow element including first and second arms extending from a trunk with the first lumen extending through the first arm to the trunk and the second lumen extending through the second arm to the trunk, the first and second lumens being separated from one another within the trunk, the first arm including *a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm, wherein the first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap.*"

In contrast, the Y connector 107 of Cupp is entirely contained within the port 13 — i.e., within the housing of the port 13 which comprises a boot 21 and a cover 163 filled with a matrix of polyurethane. (See, Cupp col. 3, lines 41 - 44; col. 6, lines 52 - 58 and Figs. 2 and 3). As made clear by the label, the Y-connector 107 of Cupp is not F-shaped. That is, the branches 151, 153 of the tubular members 101, 103, respectively, are not substantially parallel to one another as required by claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Cupp does not disclose or suggest a port for subcutaneous implantation comprising a substantially "F-shaped flow element including first

and second arms extending from a trunk with the first lumen extending through the first arm to the trunk and the second lumen extending through the second arm to the trunk, the first and second lumens being separated from one another within the trunk, the first arm including *a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm, wherein the first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap,*” as recited in claim 1.

Because claims 2 - 10 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Similarly, claim 13 recites a dual well port device comprising a substantially F-shaped flow element with a “first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and *a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm, wherein the first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap.*” Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Because claims 14 - 16 and 18 depend from and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 19 recites a method of infusing fluids comprising fluidly connecting each of first and second catheter lumens to “first and second flow element lumens of an F-shaped flow element, the first flow element lumen extending through a trunk of the F-shaped flow element and through the first arm to fluidly connect to a first well of a dual well port and the second flow element lumen extending through the trunk and a second arm to fluidly connect to a second well of the port, wherein the first and second flow element lumens are separated from one another in the trunk, *the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm, wherein the first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap.*”

Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Because claims 20 and 21 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 22 recites an F-shaped connector for a dual well port comprising a trunk and "a first arm of the trunk extending from the trunk at an angle relative thereto and including an arm portion of the first connector lumen, a proximal end of the arm portion of the first connector lumen being fluidly connectable to a first of the dual well port" in combination with a second arm "extending from the trunk at an angle relative thereto...*the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm, wherein the first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap.*"

Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Because claims 23 - 26 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

Claims 1 - 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,542,923 to Ensminger et al. ("Ensminger").

As stated above, claim 1 recites a port comprising "a substantially F-shaped flow element including first and second lumens extending therethrough wherein, when in an operative configuration the F-shaped flow element is coupled to the housing with a proximal end of each of the lumens in fluid communication with a respective one of the first and second wells for receiving fluid therefrom, and wherein *distal ends of each of the lumens form outlets, each outlet being coupleable to a lumen of a medical catheter*, the F-shaped flow element including first and second arms extending from a trunk with the first lumen extending through the first arm to the

trunk and the second lumen extending through the second arm to the trunk, the first and second lumens being separated from one another within the trunk, *the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm.*"

Ensminger shows an access port 70 with two outlet nipples 92, 92' which are directly connected to a catheter 90. (See Ensminger, col. 9, lines 30 - 65; Fig. 4.) It is respectfully submitted that Ensminger shows no substantially F-shaped flow element coupled between the port and a catheter as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, although the proximal ends of the catheter 90 include first and second arms each carrying to the housing a single lumen from a multi-lumen trunk, neither of these arms includes *"a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm,"* as recited in claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that no portion of either of the arms is parallel to any portion of the other of the arms.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Ensminger neither illustrates nor describes a port comprising *"a substantially F-shaped flow element including first and second lumens extending therethrough wherein, when in an operative configuration the F-shaped flow element is coupled to the housing with a proximal end of each of the lumens in fluid communication with a respective one of the first and second wells for receiving fluid therefrom, and wherein distal ends of each of the lumens form outlets, each outlet being coupleable to a lumen of a medical catheter, the F-shaped flow element including first and second arms extending from a trunk with the first lumen extending through the first arm to the trunk and the second lumen extending through the second arm to the trunk, the first and second lumens being separated from one another within the trunk, the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm,"* as recited in claim 1 and that claim 1 is allowable.

Because claims 2 - 10 depend from and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 1, it is submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Similarly, claim 13 recites a dual well port device, comprising “an F-shaped flow element including separate lumens independent of one another, the first lumen, when the flow element is in an operative configuration coupled to the housing, being fluidly connected to the first well and having an arm portion extending at a first angle relative to the axis and wherein, when in the operative configuration, the second lumen is fluidly connected to the second well and includes an arm portion extending at a second angle relative to the axis, the F-shaped flow element including a trunk enclosing trunk portions of the first and second lumens, *the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm, wherein the first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap.*”

Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Because claims 14 - 16 and 18 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

Claim 19 recites a method of infusing fluids comprising fluidly *connecting each of first and second catheter lumens “to first and second flow element lumens of an F-shaped flow element, the first flow element lumen extending through a trunk of the F-shaped flow element and through the first arm to fluidly connect to a first well of a dual well port and the second flow element lumen extending through the trunk and a second arm to fluidly connect to a second well of the port, wherein the first and second flow element lumens are separated from one another in the trunk, the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm.”*

Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Because claims 20 and 21 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 22 recites *an F-shaped connector* comprising “a trunk including first and second connector lumens extending therethrough, *distal ends of each of the first and second connector lumens being connectable to proximal ends of separate catheter lumens*” wherein a first arm of the connector includes “*a first portion extending from an intersection with [a] second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm.*”

Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Because claims 23 - 26 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claims 1 - 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,962,577 to Tallarida et al. (“Tallarida”).

It is respectfully submitted that, similar to Cupp, Tallarida describes a multiple port implantable access device 10 including no F-shaped connector coupling to a catheter. Rather, the flow passages from the wells of the port of Tallarida form branches of a trunk with the branches and the trunk located entirely within the housing member 25. (See Tallarida, col. 4, l. 48 - col. 4, l. 32; Figs. 1 - 5.) Specifically, the device 10 includes ports 3a, 3b, 3c; funnel sections 18a, 18b, 18c and outlet passageways 19a, 19b, 19c. (*See id.*) In the exemplary embodiment of Fig. 1, outlet passageways 19a, 19b, 19c connect to a single outlet tube 2. Tallarida suggests another embodiment wherein passageways 19a, 19b, 19c remain separate but includes absolutely no suggestion that these separate outlets be joined to any connector much less an F-shaped connector as claimed. (*See id.*)

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Tallarida neither discloses nor suggests a substantially F-shaped connector including a first arm having “a first portion extending from an intersection with [a] second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm, *wherein the first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap,*” as recited in claim 1 and that claim 1 is allowable.

Because claims 2 - 10 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 13 recites a dual well port device comprising a substantially F-shaped flow element with a "first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and *a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the *first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap*." Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Because claims 14 - 16 and 18 depend from and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 19 recites a dual well port device comprising a substantially F-shaped flow element with a "first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and *a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the *first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap*." Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Because claims 20 and 21 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 22 recites an F-shaped connector for a dual well port comprising a trunk and "a first arm of the trunk extending from the trunk at an angle relative thereto and including an arm portion of the first connector lumen, a proximal end of the arm portion of the first connector lumen being fluidly connectable to a first of the dual well port" in combination with a second arm "extending from the trunk at an angle relative thereto...*the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm substantially parallel to the trunk and a second portion extending substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the *first portion of the first arm is separated from the housing by a gap*." Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Because

claims 23 - 26 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

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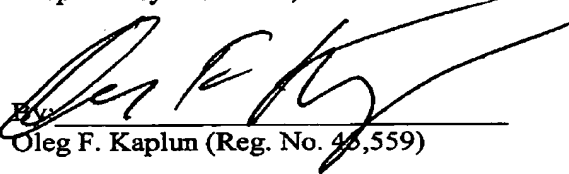
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CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Oleg F. Kaplun (Reg. No. 46,559)

Fay Kaplun & Marcin, LLP
150 Broadway, Suite 702
New York, New York 10038
Tel: (212) 619-6000
Fax: (212) 619-0276